



TV - 67 Inc.  
2115 Allentown Rd.  
Lima, Ohio 45805  
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Fax (419) 224-3167

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

JANUARY 22 1997  
JAN 23 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN THE MATTER OF

ADVANCED TELEVISION SYSTEMS )  
AND THEIR IMPACT UPON THE )  
EXISTING TELEVISION BROADCAST )  
SERVICE )

MM DOCKET NO. 87-268

TO: THE COMMISSION - MAIL STOP 1170

REPLY COMMENTS OF TV-67, INC. (FOX-67 WOHL)

WE OPERATE STATION WOHL, A LOW POWER STATION IN LIMA, OHIO.  
THE FCC'S PROPOSED ALLOTMENT TABLE WILL DISPLACE OUR  
STATION. IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO FIND ANOTHER CHANNEL, OUR  
LOCAL PROGRAMMING SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC WILL BE SILENCED.  
THIS IS SURELY NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

A DESCRIPTION OF OUR LOCAL PROGRAMMING IS ATTACHED. WE ASK  
THAT THE FCC NOT CAUSE THIS SERVICE TO END AS A MATTER OF  
PUBLIC POLICY IF NOT AS A MATTER OF LAW.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

  
ROBERT HEITMEYER, PRESIDENT

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

049

ANNUAL LOCAL PROGRAMMING OF FOX-67 (WOHL)

1. 15 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES.
2. 55 HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAMES.
3. 104 "NEWS MAGAZINE SHOWS" HIGHLIGHTING COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.
4. 104 "LOCKER ROOM SHOWS" FEATURING LOCAL COACHES AND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES COVERING LOCAL EVENTS IN OUR AREA.
5. IN CONJUNCTION WITH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TELEWISE SHOWS INFORMING VIEWERS ABOUT CANDIDATES AND ISSUES IN OUR VIEWING AREA.
6. TELEWISE LOCAL SOAP BOX DERBY COMPETITION.
7. WORKING WITH ALLEN CO. SCHOOLS TO SECURE A TELECOMMUNITY GRANT. (SEE ATTACHED)



TV - 67  
2115 Allentown Rd.  
Lima, OH 45805

## VIEWER COVERAGE

**SIGNAL COVERAGE:** UHF SIGNAL ON CHANNEL 67 COVERS  
APPROXIMATELY A 25 TO 35 MILE  
BROADCAST RADIUS (SEE MAP BELOW)

### CABLE SYSTEMS CARRYING TV-67

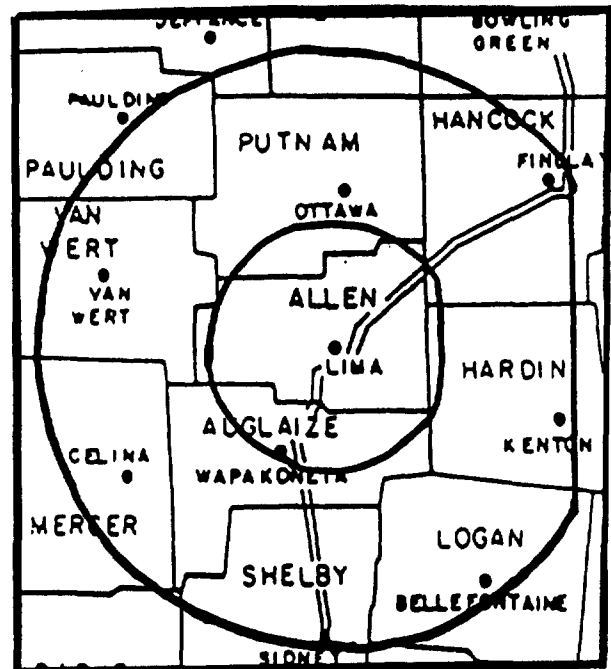
<u>TCI</u>	<u>No. OF HOUSEHOLDS</u>
VAN WERT	4,000
OHIO CITY	

<u>OTEC</u>	
OTTOVILLE	
FT. JENNINGS	3,000
KALIDA	
GROVER HILL	

<u>WARNER CABLE</u>	
DELPHOS	3,000
LIMA *	30,000
OTTAWA	
COLUMBUS GROVE	3,000
GLANDORF	

<u>W.A.T.C.H. TV</u>	
WEST CENTRAL OHIO	10,000
BENTON RIDGE	300

<u>FRONTIER VISION</u>	
BLUFFTON	1,800



**APPROXIMATE AERIAL ANTENNA HOUSEHOLDS REACHED: 100,000**

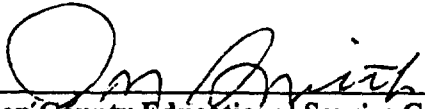
**\*PART-TIME (WEEKEND)**

**APPLICATIONS PENDING FOR CABLE SYSTEMS IN : LIMA, WAPAKONETA,  
ST. MARYS, KENTON, ADA & LEIPSIC**

Application Cover Page

# Telecommunity Planning Grant

## West Central Ohio Learning Consortium:




Allen County Educational Service Center  
Don Smith, Superintendent

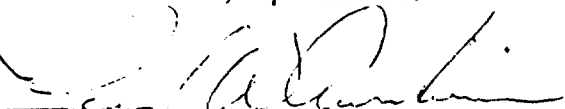


Lima City Schools  
Charles Buroker, Superintendent

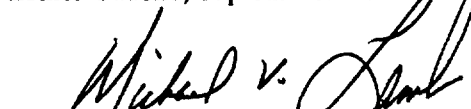
Bath Local Schools  
Paul Assenheimer, Superintendent



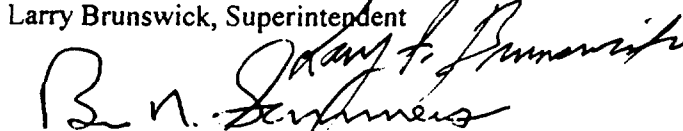
Marimor School - Allen County MRDD  
Esther Gaucho, Superintendent




Bluffton Exempted Village Schools  
Larry Brunswick, Superintendent



Perry Local Schools  
Michael Lamb, Superintendent



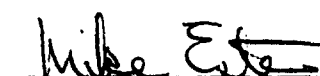
Delphos City Schools  
Bruce Sommers, Superintendent



Shawnee Local Schools  
William Lodermeier, Superintendent



Elida Local Schools  
Todd Hanes, Superintendent



Spencerville Local Schools  
Michael Estes, Superintendent



Fox 67, WOHL, Lima  
Robert Heitmeyer, General Manager

### Project Coordination and Fiscal Agent:

Allen County Educational Service Center  
204 North Main Street, Suite 303  
Lima, Ohio 45801  
Telephone: 419-222-1836  
Fax: 419-224-0718

Don Smith, Superintendent  
Email: AC\_SUPT@NOACSC.OHIO.GOV

Contact Person: Millie Hughes  
Email: AC\_HUGHES@NOACSC.OHIO.GOV

## **Abstract**

The West Central Ohio Learning Consortium is a growing partnership currently consisting of nine schools, an educational service center, and a business. All members believe that a telecommunity can provide unique learning opportunities for students.

Distance learning will dissolve classroom walls and create a learning laboratory in the community. The project will initially focus on high school courses where technology is an integral component of the course. Students at each site will form a production company which complies with standards used in business and industry. Students will create video productions which will be aired weekly on commercial television. The two-way interactive video will make it possible for students and teachers from different schools to consult and to work cooperatively on common projects. Students and teachers will also be able to interact with Fox 67 for technical assistance on such topics as video production, scripting, industry standards, marketing, and transmission.

This Telecommunity project will be community based, as well as school based. Student videos will be collaboratively produced at school sites, but will be broadcast throughout the communities in Allen, Auglaize, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties.

In November of 1996, a planning committee was created to investigate equipment needs, curriculum/assessment implications and student impact. Consortium members have tentatively targeted the 1997-98 school year for implementation.

This project is naturally structured for engaged learning. Classrooms that foster engaged learning allow students to learn collaboratively. A cooperatively produced student video production promotes student interaction, connections among schools, collaboration among teachers and students, involvement of teachers as facilitators, and greater emphasis on technology as a tool for learning. Purposeful, real-world, learning experiences are the key to successfully preparing students for our technological world. A two-way interactive video system which links schools with one another and with private sector expertise will provide a rich source of authentic experiences for students.

The goals of this planning project will be accomplished by:

- expanding the partnership to other interested schools in Allen, Auglaize, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties;
- identifying and addressing the technical aspects of distance learning technology that will supply the appropriate connectivity required by this project; and
- developing the policies and procedures that will govern the day to day operation of the project.

## **Section 1: Telecommunity**

The West Central Ohio Learning Consortium will reconfigure the existing “classroom” view of education to a “learning community” model that connects students and teachers with private sector expertise. Purposeful, real-world, learning experiences are key to preparing students for the technological world around us. A two-way interactive video system that connects schools with other schools and that links schools with expertise in the private sector will provide a rich source of authentic experiences that will result in better prepared students and a better informed, participative community.

### **Who and what might make up a telecommunity?**

Ultimately, the West Central Learning Consortium will pursue active membership in a global telecommunity that connects students and teachers to a world of cultural diversity and expertise. As a first step towards the global telecommunity, this project will focus on Allen, Auglaize, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties. Currently, a core group of five local high schools, two city schools, an exempted village school, a school for the Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Delayed (MRDD), a county educational service center and a telecommunications company in Allen County has expressed interest in forming an interactive distance learning partnership. To date these schools/agencies include the following:

#### **Local Schools:**

- Bath Local Schools**
- Elida Local Schools**
- Perry Local Schools**
- Shawnee Local Schools**
- Spencerville Local Schools**

#### **Exempted Village Schools:**

- Bluffton Exempted Village Schools**

#### **City Schools:**

- Delphos City Schools**
- Lima City Schools**

#### **MRDD School:**

- Allen County School for Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Delayed**

#### **Educational Service Center:**

- Allen County Educational Service Center**

#### **Telecommunications Company:**

- Fox 67, WOHL, Lima**

The core group listed above serves the full range of rural, urban, and suburban populations. Lima City and Spencerville are equity schools. Bath, Bluffton, Elida, Delphos, Perry, and Shawnee are not classified as equity schools, but do qualify for Federal Assistance through Title I because of the number of economically disadvantaged students they serve.

The Allen County School for Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Delayed serves a special needs population. Elida and Lima City also serve special needs students through their alternative programs for high school students who are at risk of dropping out of school without a diploma. As project planning continues other student populations may also be served. As part of the planning grant activities, other schools in the Fox 67 service area of Allen, Auglaize, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties will be invited to join the project.

**Project Personnel:**

The Allen County Educational Service Center will coordinate planning grant activities and serve as the fiscal agent.

Project Leader: Millie Hughes, Allen County Educational Service Center

**Members of Planning Group:**

Teachers and high school principals/designee from each participating high school  
Tech coordinators from each participating high school/district  
Videographers and a broadcast engineer from Fox 67  
SchoolNet Faculty  
DA-Site Network Liaisons

There are strong academic and technology credentials in this core group of people. Bio statements of key personnel follow the budget narrative in this application. In addition to the collective expertise of the personnel, each of the partnering districts has demonstrated commitment to the successful integration of technology in their respective curriculums by employing a half time/full-time technology coordinator.

**What modes of communication will be used?**

Present modes of communication among the core group members include interaction through Internet, Email, telephone, local superintendent and technology meetings, Regional Community of Practice meetings, and curriculum meetings. When the distance learning project is in place, communication modes will be extended to include interactive video conferencing. Regular telecommunity committee meetings and student video production meetings will take place through interactive video conferencing.

Students are currently using electronic mail, fax and telephone to communicate within buildings/district and with students in other schools. Two schools have a CU-See Me project which involves collaboration between Spanish classes and between business

classes. When the distance learning project is implemented, students will be able to interact through the telecommunity.

A primary goal of this planning project will be the investigation of the technical aspects associated with the connectivity required for interactive distance learning. Core group members have already attended a demonstration of mobile distance learning equipment. Investigation and comparison of ISDN lines, T-1 lines, fiber optic lines, capabilities, services, transmission speeds, cost effectiveness, and educational potential/quality are being studied. Decision making on equipment, communication lines to support the interactive video, and maximizing the use of SchoolNet wiring already in place will be made in conjunction with technical assistance and expertise provided by SchoolNet Faculty, Fox 67, and the Northwest Ohio Data Acquisition Site located in Lima, Ohio.

### **What sorts of activities and work?**

Initially the project will focus on high school courses or educational options where video media is an integral part of the course work. Students will create video productions which will be aired weekly on commercial television. The interactive video studios will enable students from different schools to work cooperatively on common projects and jointly consult with Fox 67. Fox 67 will be able to provide technical assistance and insight into video production, editing, scripting, marketing, and the science of transmitting video signals to homes via air waves.

Students at each site will form a company which complies with standards used in business and industry. Students will create brochures and other marketing materials to promote their productions. Engaged learning will be the norm and assessment will be authentic as products and productions are developed and broadcast. In addition to the production components, business aspects, and communication technologies students will experience, there will be community service opportunities to video tape community events to be broadcast on Fox 67.

### **What kinds of facilities?**

Like the actual workplace, the studio facilities may vary from site to site. Irrespective of the physical arrangement, the primary criterion for each facility will be a program that fosters critical thinking, problem solving and engaged learning. Each site will have either a dedicated studio or movable equipment that can be transported to other rooms when the need arises. Ideally, students at each site will have access to computers with video editing software and with Internet connections. Facsimiles, electronic mail, and two-way interactive video will be integral components of learning activities. The experiences



students will have using technology and working cooperatively with business personnel and students from other schools will be highly transferable to the community and to the workplace.

**How will your telecommunity be useful and productive for engaged, challenging and thoughtful learning?**

Instruction that revolves around the lecture approach with the teacher as the giver of knowledge will not be encouraged. Project planners are sensitive to the fact that the presence of a microphone and camera may inadvertently promote a lecture approach. The best use of interactive learning technologies is a program that promotes engaged learning. In this project students will make videos of community and school events; they will write scripts, conduct interviews, edit videos and make decisions about what to include in their productions. The teacher will be a facilitator and students will be challenged to make major decisions about quality and creativity. Students will have roles in management and supervisory positions in their "company" that will develop leadership qualities as well as involvement in group projects that embraces cooperative learning. As in the workplace, they will learn to make decisions with cooperation and in consensus with one another. Their roles will give them experiences that will ease the transition from school to work. Students will be working to produce a product that will be viewed weekly by the community. Thus, they must adhere to deadlines, industry standards, and quality guidelines. Students will be exposed to a challenging curricula and through interactive distance learning and the Internet, will be able to collaborate with their peers in other schools and access experts in the workplace and the community.

**How will your telecommunity accomplish educational tasks and provide educational opportunities that cannot be achieved any other way?**

The key to the success of this endeavor is collaboration. There must be collaboration between students at different sites in order to arrange scheduling of video shoots in the community and of school events. While some of this can be done with electronic mail, telephone, and fax, there is no substitute for face to face contact. Two-way interactive distance learning will provide face to face contact without the time, expense and liability of transporting students to meeting sites. A studio at Fox 67 that gives students' access to video expertise will also allow students to download video for personnel at Fox 67 to review. Interactive distance learning will enable immediate feedback and opportunity for dialogue/questions.

Traditionally, students author papers or create projects where the teacher is the only audience.. Through Fox 67 broadcasts, the audience will expand to include multiple-county viewers. The students benefit from the feedback of a wider audience. The community benefits from being informed about school and community activities and achievements. This wider audience could not be achieved without the use of technology.

**What are the ethics of your telecommunity? How are the values of all members of your telecommunity made manifest and honored?**

A major portion of the planning grant period will be used to develop specific policies and procedures that will govern the day to day operation of this project. To ensure that the ethics, values and concerns of all members of the telecommunity are accurately reflected in the project policies and procedures, representatives from all interested schools/agencies will participate in their development.

Technology is an equalizer that must be accessible to all students. High quality engaged learning must be provided for all students including students at risk and special needs students. Project planners recognize that at risk and special needs students who are typically multisensory learners do not fit the traditional lecture approach, but often excel when given the opportunity to use technology in an engaged and challenging way. Students in this project will be heterogeneously grouped and all students will be encouraged to assume leadership roles.

One of the proposed sites for a distance learning studio is the Allen County MRDD, a school for mentally retarded and developmentally delayed students. In addition to highlighting activities from that school which will contribute to community awareness, there will be opportunities for MRDD students to interact with students in other schools and to participate in cooperative projects.

**What might be some changing roles of students, teachers, community leaders, business persons, curators, artists, scientists, etc., in a telecommunity?**

Traditionally, the classroom role of a student has been that of a passive receiver of knowledge; the teacher, a giver of knowledge; and the community, an entity existing outside the school realm with a variety of expectations. In this telecommunity project those roles will change. Students will be actively engaged learners who make decisions about what is learned and how it is learned. Teachers will be facilitators who guide students through learning experiences. The community will give expertise as well as receive services from students involved in the project.

These changing roles will not occur automatically. It will require intense and ongoing professional development for teachers to understand and accept this changing role. Interactive distance learning will be an important media for delivering professional development programs to teachers and to explain programmatic goals to parents and community resources.

In summary, the requested funding for distance learning planning will assist in the achievement of three planning goals: 1) to extend an invitation to other interested schools in Allen, Auglaize, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties to participate in this project; 2) to identify and address the technical aspects of distance learning technology that will

supply the appropriate connectivity required by this project; and, 3) to develop the policies and procedures that will govern the day to day operation of the project.

**The video media project is only a beginning for the West Central Learning Consortium.** Eventually we hope to take our students and teachers on electronic expeditions all over the world through teleconferences. Options are also being explored to link with the existing distance learning studio at The Ohio State University, Lima Campus which may provide the potential for on site post secondary courses. This planning grant will not only allow us to achieve the three goals listed above, but will also allow us to expand our vision to fully utilize the potential of distance learning technologies.

**An outline of the media project used for discussion purposes among interested schools/agencies is included in the appendix.** The outline describes the initial project and also illustrates the commitment to continuous communication among group members.